

**CLAIMS**

1. Process for the manufacture of an oral composition, said oral composition comprising from 5 to 60% by weight calcium carbonate as abrasive, said method characterised by the preparation of a slurry which comprises substantially all of the ingredients present in said oral composition followed by the addition of a thickening mixture to form said oral composition.  
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2. Process according to claim 1, wherein the thickening mixture comprises a polymeric thickening mixture selected from carboxyl methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenin, gum tragacanth, xanthan gum, guar gum, alginates, bentonite and other natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays.  
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3. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickening mixture comprises flavour at from 0.001 to 20 100% by weight of the final composition.  
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4. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickening mixture comprises surfactant.  
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5. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickening mixture comprises a fluoride ion source.  
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6. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickening mixture comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight

- 13 -

of the oral composition.

7. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate.
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8. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises a humectant.
- 10 9. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises a thickening silica.
10. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises dispersant.
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11. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises a fluoride ion source.
12. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry is prepared by adding calcium carbonate to a water/humectant mixture.
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13. A continuous process for the manufacture of an oral composition, said method characterised by the following steps:  
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      (a) preparation of an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate;

- 14 -

- (b) optional addition of further ingredients to said suspension;
- (c) optional de-aeration of said suspension;
- 5 (d) addition of thickening mixture;
- (e) mixing of said suspension and thickening mixture;
- 10 (f) standing for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes or for long enough for the thickening mixture to hydrate;
- (g) mixing for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes.